

Remarks

Although Applicant's Attorney does not necessarily agree with the Examiner's characterization of the July 18, 2006 telephonic interview, Applicant's Attorney did find the interview useful.

Applicant's Attorney amended claims 1 and 21. No new matter was added: "[T]he radiation force on the microbubble can be significant since it is an ideal acoustic reflector." (Pg. 6, lines 20-21).

Amended claims 1 and 21 are patentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,391,020 (Kurtz). Kurtz fails to recite propagating at least one acoustic wave through the material to exert a force at an exterior surface of the microbubble to controllably manipulate the microbubble within the material without causing the destruction of the microbubble as each of claims 1 and 21 recite. Kurtz, instead states that "[u]nder the influence of the ultrasound beam 70, the gas inside the cavitation nucleus 45 expands, causing the cavitation nucleus to explode." (Col 4., lines 43-45). The expansion of Kurtz's cavitation nucleus is not caused by a force at an exterior surface of the microbubble.

Claims 2, 4-8, 11-15, and 18-20 depend from claim 1. Claims 23-24, 27-29, 36, and 40 depend from claim 21. For at least the reason claims 1 and 21 are patentable, claims 2, 4-8, 11-15, 18-20, 23-24, 27-29, 36, and 40 are patentable.

Applicant's Attorney believes the claims are in a condition for allowance. A notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Applicant's Attorney also invites a telephone conference if the Examiner believes it will advance the prosecution of the case.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayments as a result of the filing of this paper to our Deposit Account No. 02-3978.

Respectfully submitted,

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